DeSoto Intermediate

ADEL DESOTO MINBURN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 20, 2017 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @DeSoto_School

A MESSAGE FROM MR. DUFOE

Amy Hemphill is our assistant principal at Adel Elementary and Desoto Intermediate. We are currently experiencing some unanticipated issues securing her administrative license. Amy has a Master's degree in curriculum and is nearing completion of a Doctorate degree in school leadership. However, fewer of the courses fulfill the requirements necessary for an administrative license than initially planned. While we work through this temporary issue, Amy's job title is being adjusted to Elementary Curriculum Coordinator with some adjustments to her job responsibilities. We are very excited about Amy joining the leadership team at ADM but, I wanted to let you know the reason for the title change.
Thanks, Greg Dufoe
ADM Superintendent

STUDY TABLE

DeSoto Intermediate is offering an afterschool option for your student called Study Table. Many students go to city libraries to study & would prefer to stay after school to complete homework or assignments. A staff member, who can answer questions, providing students a study hall like setting, will monitor the Study Table.
The Study Table will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from about 3:20-4:30 p.m. for students to complete homework or work on projects. Students can have the option of taking the "tutoring bus" home. Study Table will begin on Nov. 7th and will run every Tuesday and Thursday.
We feel that the Study Table will provide our students access to time, school staff and materials to build homework habits at no cost to the parents.

SAFETY DRILLS

Each year the building practices drills to increase our safety in unforeseen situations. At ADM, the Pre-School-5 grade buildings practice drills for the following events: fire, severe weather, evacuation and lock-down. As a staff, we know the importance of staying calm and using clear directions with students. Our intent is not to alarm students, rather to provide information to ready students in the event one of these situations were to arise. By the end of October, we will have practiced each drill. We would encourage you to visit with your child about their safety plans while at school. It might also be timely to discuss your family home safety plan.

Outline of practice drills:

Fire:
- Building sirens are used
- Classrooms walk in line to nearest exit

Severe Weather:
- Intercom announcement is made to move to severe weather locations
- Students kneel and cover their heads

Lockdown:
- Intercom announcement is made for classes to practice lockdown
- Classes move to a designed spot in their classroom

Evacuation:
- Intercom announcement is made for classes to practice evacuation
- Classes exit the class and walk to the nearest exit.
- Each classroom meets outside in a designated meeting spot.

TWITTER UPDATE

A recent DeSoto Intermediate Twitter moment:

Celebrating our 1st qtr of PBIS with PUMPKIN BOWLING! A great time- even VIP seating for 4 lucky students. Let's ROAR Tigers!

POWER STANDARDS

All ADM teachers are in the process of identifying power standards for each content area. PLC leaders refer to Power Standard work as the "most significant item for PLCs to consider." It is essential in providing students with a "guaranteed and viable" curriculum. We teach all standards, however some are more important than others and need more time to ensure learning has occurred. We call these specific outcomes power standards. Power standards are selected because they prepare students for the next grade level's learning and are concepts students need to retain as knowledge beyond the current course.

Our teams are committed to implementing interventions when students haven't grasped the power standards. Interventions typically look like small group re-teaching time. Even when the class has moved on from a particular unit/skill of learning, if a student hasn't grasped a power standard we will continue to use extra minutes to work on those specific standards. Our goal is learning each power standard by the end of the year and our interventions allow time to continue with this power standard learning.

As we move toward Standards Based Reporting, the power standards will be the key elements that are shared. Our reporting goal is to share an understanding of how each student is doing with each standard rather than an overall grade. We are excited about this work and feel confident it is the right direction for the students at ADM.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The DeSoto Intermediate School Office is open Monday- Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

317 Spruce Street
DeSoto, Iowa 50069
515-834-2424

OFFICE STAFF:
Jodi Banse,
Principal

Amy Hemphill,
Elementary Curriculum

Sondra Hovey,
Administrative Assistant

Shannon Hodges,
Office Assistant

UPCOMING DATES

- October 23-25 PLC Conference in DSM
- October 25- 12:45 Early Dismissal- Teacher PD
- October 27- Fall parties celebrated in classrooms
- November 2- 5th grade music concert 6 & 7 pm
- November 7th- Study Table begins (every Tues. & Thrs.)
- November 14- 4th grade music concert 6 & 7 pm
- November 15- 12:45 Early Dismissal- Teacher PD
- November 22-25- Thanksgiving Vacation

"Experiencing Success Today, Achieving Dreams Tomorrow"